

REMARKS

Applicant has now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of December 9, 2005. Applicant desires consideration of the enclosed amendment.

Claims 19-22, 24-37, and 48-50 are pending in the application.

Claims 25 and 28 have been canceled. Claims 19, 24, 29, 30, 31, 33, and 48 have been amended in the present amendment.

THE OFFICE ACTION

Claims 19-22, 24-36, and 48-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grochowski (U.S. Patent No. 5,603,907).

Claim 37 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grochowski (U.S. Patent No. 5,603,907) in view of Romey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,764,355).

THE CLAIMS DISTINGUISH OVER THE REFERENCES OF RECORD

As the Examiner is aware, applicant claims a method of treating fluids by use of at least one bulk material comprising flowing a fluid substantially through a plurality of bulk material beds, the fluid flowing from a bottom to a top of at least one bulk material bed. The bulk material is moved countercurrent to the flow of the fluid through at least one of the bulk material beds.

Independent claim 19 has been amended and now includes the limitation of dependent claim 28 et al. Namely, independent claim 19 now recites a **movable** bulk material delivery mechanism to at least partially deliver said at least one bulk material to said at least one bulk

material bed wherein said movable bulk material delivery mechanism is movable to a plurality of said bulk material beds (refer to Figure 6a). In contrast, the '907 patent does not relate to bulk material moving beds in which the bulk material is fed by a movable bulk material delivery mechanism. The '907 patent describes "... a fluidized bed reactor (12) consisting of altogether eight parallel-operating treatment reactor (10) . . . each individual treatment reactor has a bulk material supply bin (17) . . ." (column 5, lines 20-35). Thus, Applicant's invention is not anticipated nor made obvious by the '907 reference.

Therefore, independent claim 19, and all claims dependent therefrom are not anticipated for at least the reasons stated above.

Claim 24 has been amended and now includes the limitation of claim 25. Namely, claim 24 now recites "... a **movable** bulk material delivery mechanism to at least partially deliver said at least one bulk material to said at least one plurality of said bulk material beds; said movable bulk material delivery mechanism includes a container, said container including a plurality of slit openings or linear openings that are used to at least partially deliver said at least one bulk material ~~in to~~ at ~~at~~ least one plurality of said bulk material beds . . . ". Independent claim 24 recites a **moveable** bulk material delivery mechanism which includes a container for delivering bulk material to a plurality of bulk material beds. Further, claim 24 recites that the container is **moveable** on guides, and that the container includes a trough with closeable unloading openings which are arranged over a trough floor in a surface distribution. The arguments raised above with respect to independent claim 19 are equally appropriate here and will not be repeated. For at least the reasons stated above, independent claim 24, and all claims dependent therefrom, are not anticipated nor made obvious by the cited references.

Claim 33 recites the movable bulk material delivery mechanism supplies at least two

different bulk materials to the at least one bulk material bed. Claim 34 recites the bulk material bed includes a plurality of different types of bulk material. Claim 48 has been amended and now recites a first bulk material having a first treatment agent and a second bulk material having a second treatment agent. Claims 33, 34, and 48 recite a bulk material delivery mechanism which supplies at least two different bulk materials to the at least one bulk material bed. The aforementioned claims recite the use of at least two different bulk materials for treating fluids in a fluid stream.

In contrast, the '907 patent does not disclose having first and second bulk materials. As described in the '907 patent, ". . . the process according to the invention makes it possible not only to utilize **one single bulk material** in a single dry cleaning stage according to the countercurrent method, but also to provide a certain selectivity in regard to the type and characteristics of the bulk material. The process according to the invention makes it possible to **exclusively utilize** hearth furnace coke, **exclusively** activated glance coal coke, **exclusively** a zeolite, **or . . .**" (column 3, lines 43-50). Further, the '907 patent recites "if the removal of bulk material from the bulk material layer in the reaction chamber is executed in at least two successively executed operation cycles according to a further example of the invention and the bulk material removed in these successive operation cycles are separated from each other, a separate bulk material disposal for differently contaminated bulk materials can be realized, **although the fluid treatment in the concerned bulk material layer is executed in one stage**" (column 4, lines 17-23). As such, the '907 merely describes and claims (i.e. claim 9) a removal, separation, and treatment of the bulk material into a first batch and a second batch, whereby the second batch is treated separately from the treatment of the first batch.

Thus, the '907 patent does not anticipate nor make obvious the method wherein the bulk

material delivery mechanism supplies at least two different bulk materials to the at least one bulk material bed. As such, claims 33, 34, and 48, and all claims dependent therefrom, are not anticipated nor made obvious by the cited references.

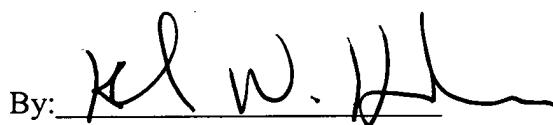
Dependent claim 37 recites at least one adsorbent includes activated coke, and said at least one chemically reactive component includes calcium hydroxide. As stated above, the present application describes and recites the use of two different types of bulk material. Claim 37 further describes the two different types of bulk materials being activated coke and calcium hydroxide.

As such, the '907 patent and the '355 patent do not anticipate nor make obvious, either singly or in combination, the use of two different types of bulk material and in particular bulk materials including activated coke and calcium hydroxide.

CONCLUSION

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated December 9, 2005 has been addressed. All formal and informal matters having been addressed, this application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is solicited.

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